

**THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.**

Shipping.

Co-day's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL, CITY HALL.

BENEFIT OF MISS SALLIE BOOTH AND MISS BLANCHE RIPLEY.

SATURDAY, the 31st June, 1895.
Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

BANK HOLIDAY.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 6 of 1895 the Undermentioned BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY next, the 3rd June (WHIT MONDAY):—

For the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA, A. C. MARSHALL, Manager, Hongkong.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.

For the NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED, GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR, Chief Manager.

For the MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED, JOHN THURBURN, Manager, Hongkong.

For the BANQUE DE L'INDO-CHINE, Hongkong Agency, EMILE MAVER, Manager.

For the BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED, HONGKONG, CHANTREY INCHBALD, Manager.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

THE Undermentioned INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY, the 3rd proximo (WHIT MONDAY):—

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., General Agents, CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LD.

General Managers, HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

DOUGLAS JONES, Acting Secretary, UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LD.

W. H. FERCIVAL, Agent, NORTH CHINA INSURANCE CO., LD.

W. H. RAY, Secretary, CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LD.

SHAW & CO., Agents, CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

WM. MACBEAN, Manager, THE STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LD.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

PUBLIC AUCTION

OF A VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY, Situate at VICTORIA, HONGKONG, to be SOLD on THURSDAY, the 6th June, 1895, at 3 o'clock P.M. at the Premises.

THE PROPERTY will first be offered in ONE LOT, and if not sold will be offered IN LOTS, as follows:—

LOT 1.—The tenement No. 61, HOLLYWOOD ROAD situate on Sub-section No. 1 of Section B of Island Lot No. 65.

LOT 2.—The tenement No. 31, ABERDEEN STREET situate on Sub-section No. 1 of Section C of Island Lot No. 75.

LOT 3.—The tenement No. 16, PEEL STREET situate on a portion of the Remaining portion of Island Lot No. 75.

LOT 4.—The tenement No. 18, PEEL STREET situate on a portion of the Remaining portion of Island Lot No. 75.

For further Particulars and Conditions of Sale, apply to VICTOR H. DEACON, Solicitor, or to J. M. ARMSTRONG, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI AND TIENTSIN. THE Steamship "NANCHANG," Captain Finlayson, will be despatched TO-MORROW, the 30th instant, at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to RUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents, Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO. THE 100 A. I. British Ship "LYNDHURST," Martin, Master, will load here for the above Port, and will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to SHEWAN & Co. Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

TO LET.

ROOMS in "BRACKENFIELD ARCADE," HOUSES Nos. 4 and 6, "BRILLIOS TERRACE."

OFFICES in MARINE HOUSE. SMALL TWO-STORY BUILDING at end of "WEST VILLA," BOWMAN ROAD. GODOWNS in DUNDRELL STREET.

Apply to BRILLIOS & Co. Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED, VICTORIA DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLE AERATED WATER. SODA WATER. LEMONADE.

GINGER ALE. SASSAPARILLA. RASPBERRYVADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are made under the constant supervision of a duly qualified English Chemist and will bear comparison with the best English Manufactures.

Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MESSERS and other Large Consumers.

Any complaints should be addressed to the Manager.

Hongkong, 3rd May, 1895.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

ALL these are Selected by our London House, bought direct at first hand, imported in Wood and Bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits and enabling us to supply the best growths at moderate prices.

PRICE LISTS, WITH FULL DETAILS, TO BE HAD ON APPLICATION.

PORT.—After removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHERRY.—Excellent dinner and after dinner Wines, of very superior vintage. All are true Xeres Wines.

CLARET.—Our Clarets, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the juice of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currents, as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY.—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be of pure quality and of age and vintage.

WHISKY.—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The Scotch Whisky marked "E" is universally popular and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong Market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorised Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD. THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1895.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1895.

THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

REMARKABLE GOVERNMENTAL EPISTLE.

We have the honour, in common with our contemporaries, to acknowledge the receipt from the Colonial Secretary of a very hastily written and very ill-tempered letter on the subject of our remarks about the report of the Medical Commission and the curious discrepancy, still unexplained, between a paragraph in that report as Mr. McConachy read it out in Council on the 17th of April and the same paragraph as it appeared in print on the 23rd May.

We publish this letter in full in another column. The Governor, through the Colonial Secretary, accuses us of having "without inquiry and without any evidence" allowed this paper to be made the vehicle of an outrageous and libellous charge against the Government, a charge of falsifying for its own purposes a public document before its publication.

He further accuses us in the last paragraph of the letter of publishing gratuitous statements absolutely untrue, and of "imputing to the Government motives which would be creditable to the lowest form of Government."

Now in the first place what business has the Governor, without making any inquiry from us, to assert that what we published was published without inquiry and without evidence? How does he know that? And on what evidence does he make that assertion? We made inquiry and we had evidence, and did not publish without both the one and the other.

The Governor owes us, we think, an apology and retraction on that point. Now what statements did we make in the incriminated paragraph published on the 25th instant?

(1) That the Medical report was undated; that is so, as any one can see for himself; (2) that it purported to be signed some

equally true; (3) that it time in Asia since first signed and sent was clear Government it had been altered in this respect, some words having been added since Mr. McConachy read out a paragraph in the Legislative Council. We are bound to accept the statement now formally made in writing by all the members of the Medical Commission that no such alteration was made, and we formally withdraw our assertion but we do not apologise. The statement was, under the circumstances, a perfectly legitimate one to make. The evidence on the point was almost irresistible. Mr. McConachy had in the course of a debate in the Legislative Council professed to quote the exact words of the report. When, nearly a month afterwards, the Report appeared in print it was found on examination that there were words in print that the Honourable Member had not read, although most pertinent to the subject then under discussion and such as one would naturally have expected him to read if in the report. What other conclusion could be drawn than that they had been added since the report was first signed and sent in? But we neither said nor insinuated that the Government or any Government Officer had made the alteration unauthorisedly. Our opinion was that, probably at the suggestion or request of the Government or of some member of it, the members of the Commission had consented to the addition as better expressing their opinions on a particular point then newly raised. We made no charge against the Government. We intended to make no charge against the Government. We noted what appeared to be, on the best evidence, a fact. It was not a gratuitous statement. It was one it was our duty to make. We were writing about a matter of immediate and considerable public interest, and about which explanation was needed. We did not charge any one directly or indirectly with falsifying a public document, nor did we dream of such a thing. We stated, further, that the evidence had been carefully edited since first reduced to writing and was not quite in the same state as when originally submitted to the Government. We may have been wrong as to the time when alterations were made in the evidence, and it may have been altered before it left the hands of the Commission, but we never said or insinuated that it had been altered by the Government, or by any one connected with the Government. We repeat again that the evidence as now printed is not in all respects as originally taken down. Will Dr. Lowry, for instance, state that he has not revised the drafts or first proofs—we do not know which—of his evidence? Governments legitimately exercise their influence on their officers to consent to modify their reports or their evidence at times, and no one reading the last few lines of our paragraph can have doubt that alteration by or with the Government had occurred. We accept, we say again, unhesitatingly the evidence of Dr. Knorr and his colleagues, that the report as printed is in all respects as it was when drafted and signed, but the fact still remains unexplained that Mr. McConachy, professing to give the exact words of the report, omitted a certain very significant portion, and led us and our contemporaries into error. We correct the statement of fact. We indignantly repudiate the Governor's assertion that we made libellous and outrageous charges against the Government of falsifying public documents. We made no charges whatever and wrote no word that could give colour to such a charge. We imputed no motives to any one.

We note on comparing the letter received by us with that sent to the *China Mail* that they appear to be common form documents apparently kept in stock for such occasions as the present and fired off indiscriminately at every one alike. May we respectfully suggest to his Excellency that no useful purpose can be served by the writing of letters of the tone and temper of that now under reply. It is weak and undignified, and where there is a question of libel, such matters had better be left to the authorised law officers of the Crown to deal with, instead of to a gentleman who does not understand the force and meaning of the words he uses and who is too hasty and excitable to give himself time to think.

(Special to Hongkong Telegraph.)

TELEGRAM.

THE OCCUPATION OF FORMOSA.

JAPANESE FLEET OFF TAMSUI.

FIGHTING IMMINENT.

SHANGHAI, May 29th. Noon.

The Japanese Fleet is now outside Tamsui Bar and fighting will probably take place to-day or to-morrow.

The Japanese Viceroy of Formosa is on board one of the ironclads.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

LONDON, May 28th.

Twenty-one British warships, under Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour, are now at Alexandria; visits have been exchanged with the Khedive and the town is in full.

THE INDIAN COTTON DUTIES.

The Right Hon. H. H. Fowler replying to a question of the Lancashire cotton operatives, asked for a written statement on the specific question as to whether the duties were protective, which statement he would transmit to India and would communicate the reply to the deputation.

THE FORMOSA DIFFICULTY.

A Japanese fleet has arrived off Tamsui and fighting is expected.

(As will have been seen by an "Extra" which we issued at 12.30 to-day, the Japanese Fleet detailed to accompany Viscount Kabayama (the Viceroy) and an Army Corps from Hiroshima to Formosa arrived off Tamsui this morning. Reuter's wire probably refers to a few scouts, or the advance guard of a Japanese armada.—Ed. H.K. Telegraph.)

(Special to *Slam Observer*.)

THE ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

THE CHIEF POINTS IN THE REFORM PROGRAMME. CONSTANTINOPLE, May 15th.

The principal points in the note presented to the Porte by the representatives of Great Britain, France, and Russia, with respect to the reforms demanded in Armenia, are as follows:—

The Powers to vote as to the appointment of the Vails (Governor-Generals, one at the head of each Vilayet, of which there are five in Armenia).

The third highest post among the officials to be held by a Christian.

A Commission to be appointed to supervise the administration of the Armenian Provinces, and to consist of Muslims and Christians.

Courts of Assize to be constituted.

A regular inspection of the prisons to be established.

The Kurds to be disarmed.

The Porte to appoint a High Commissioner who shall supervise the execution of these reforms.

"TRUTH WILL OUT."

ST. PETERSBURG, May 18th.

The newspapers in Russia are urging the Government to press for advantages of a positive nature amongst them the extension of the trans-Siberian railway to a port on the Yellow Sea. This demand, which is in view of the relationship of the press to the State, is probably inspired, would imply the inclusion of Korea in the Russian sphere.

THE NICARAGUA INDEMNITY.

LONDON, May 19th.

The indemnity of £15,000 demanded by England has been paid in Paris by the Government of Nicaragua. The whole sum was paid in shillings.

THE TICHBORNE CLAIMANT.

The Tichborne Claimant has sworn an affidavit in which he admits that his true name is Arthur Orton.

THE PROJECTED CHINESE LOAN.

PARIS, May 19th.

A conference of bankers is discussing in Paris the subject of the Chinese loan. The first instalment asked for will probably be £200,000. The question under discussion is the principle of an European control of the Chinese Customs.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE CANTON RIVER.

The following letter has been forwarded to us by the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for publication:—

Canton, May 27th, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that in reply to my enquiry the Viceroy has decided to me that the proposed navigation of the Canton river will be clear in a few days.

I have, &c.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE German cruiser *Marie* arrived here this morning from Shanghai.

A MEETING of the members of the V. R. C. will be held in the boat-house at 5.15 p.m. to-morrow.

"ENGINEER": Your question has been duly noted and will appear in the *QUERY COLUMN* at an early date.

At the Magistracy this morning, before Mr. Woodhouse, Capt. Verroux of the French mail liner *Natal* was fined \$25 for blowing his vessel's whistle unnecessarily while lying at the Co's buoy in the harbour yesterday morning.

THE railway system in Formosa being very imperfect, the Imperial Japanese Railway Department has decided to dispatch Messrs. Masuda and Hisano to the island to make surveys and draw up a scheme for railway construction in the island on an extensive scale.

DETECTIVE Sergeant McIver had five Head Coolies before Mr. Woodhouse this morning for failing to register their establishments. Their excuse, that they had no time to register, did not satisfy his Worship, who fined them \$25 each.

In the days of Old Japan, before the canny islanders saw themselves as others saw them, Townsend Harris, the first American envoy, lived at Shimoda and Yedo, from 1856 to 1862. He kept a journal of his strange experiences and wonderful successes. This, edited by Dr. William Elliot Griffis, with a portrait and biography, will be published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. at an early date.

A YOKOHAMA contemporary under date 15th instant says:—By telegram from Kobe we learn that the house on the hill occupied and owned by Mr. R. Young of the *Kobe Chronicle* was completely destroyed by fire on Monday night.

The place was covered by insurance, but a quantity of Chinese trophies consisting of flags and uniforms—some of the latter unique in character—belonging to Mr. Cowen of the *Times* were lost, being of course quite uninsured. The fire occurred at 7 p.m. The following morning about 3 p.m. another fire broke out on the hill, two small foreign houses belonging to Mr. Blackwell and several native houses being destroyed, and three hours later five houses were burned down near the Kobe Paper Mill.

A few days ago, says a Kobe paper of the 18th instant, we stated that, as the outcome of the present crisis, it would be found that two or three Ministers would resign, the reason assigned being their emphatic disapproval of the policy of the majority in yielding to Russia. Our information was that Viscount Mutsu had been strenuously opposed to the surrender of the Liaotung peninsula, believing that whatever measures Russia employed she would not actually proceed to force if Japan took up a resolute attitude. His view did not find favour, however, and he was out-voted by the other Ministers. We now learn from a veraculous contemporary that Viscount Mutsu's resignation of the office of Minister for Foreign Affairs may very shortly be expected.

ADMIRAL ITO will, it is said, be created a Viscount in the very near future.

It is stated that Sir Geo. T. O'Brien, will shortly retire from the Civil Service on account of ill health.

An Imperial Rescript was promulgated in Tokio on the 13th inst., being an address to the army and navy, thanking them for the exertions by which they brought the war to a successful issue.

THE Chinese Government transport *Martha*, flying the German flag, left Shanghai on the 23rd instant with a full cargo of ammunition and arms, which were shipped at the Kiangnan Arsenal for Formosa. Several other vessels have, says the *China Gazette*, lately left with like cargoes for the same destination.

In the Supreme Court this morning Mr. W. L. Denys, on behalf of Mr. Saville Smith, filed a petition in bankruptcy. Mr. E. C. Ellis, who appeared for Messrs. P. Bohm and Wogan Armada, opposed the application. The Judge refused the protection of the Court on the grounds that the assets were unsatisfactory, and he would therefore reconsider his decision at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, if satisfactory evidence could then be produced.

A KYOTO (headquarters) telegram to a Tokyo paper, dated the 16th inst., states that the men of the Imperial Bodyguard and those belonging to the First Division now at Port Arthur will shortly be dispatched for Formosa. The Imperial Bodyguard has not yet had its "baptism of blood," being part of the force originally intended for a descent on the coast of Chihli but the negotiation for peace failed, and the Bodyguard is now, it appears, to be sent to Formosa in order that it shall not be disappointed of active operations altogether.

THE skit on the evils of tight-lacing published in this journal on the 8th instant in the form of "A Petition to Her Majesty the Queen" is commented on by the *Slam Observer* thusly:—"Foot-binding—Some 'well-intentioned' busy-bodies in certain Chinese ports are preparing a petition to the Emperor calling upon him to abolish the custom of binding the feet of women. The *Hongkong Telegraph* very ably 'scores off' these people by publishing a supposititious petition from the women of China to Queen Victoria, begging her to abolish tight-lacing. One thing is about as easy as the other."

THOSE two deservedly popular favourites, Miss Sallie Booth and Miss Blanche Ripley, who, it will be remembered, did not fail to render Miss Grace Hawthorne a helping hand in her personification of "Theodora" on Monday night last, will, in all probability, give an entertainment at the Theatre Royal on Saturday.

Miss Booth says she will produce, with the aid of Miss Ripley and some well-known Hongkong Amateurs, the "Arabian Nights" and play Mrs. Gillbrant herself; a part eminently suited to her own person and to her own talents.

THE first of the "Varieties" of lines in the "and country." The entertainment will include lots of "varieties" and should therefore draw a "lullaby" house. Further particulars will be given in a day or two.

THOSE who are interested in tobacco companies in Sumatra and Borneo should be well satisfied, says the *Financial News*, with the results of the recent sales at Amsterdam. The first Borneo tobacco brought to market this season was sold by the New London Borneo Tobacco Company on 24th April, when 123 bales fetched 3s. 10d. per pound. This company paid an interim dividend in November last at the rate of 188 per cent., and the excellent price just obtained for its produce is a good augury for the future. The market for the Sumatra leaf, as reported, was very excited, and the United Lankan Plantations, Limited realised the very high figure of 5s. 4d., or 323 cents, per pound for 483 bales, while some 6,000 bales fetched over 3s. 4d. per pound. If the German and American demand does not fall off, there should be a still further improvement at the next (15th May) sale.

WE understand that the split in the Volunteer camp, referred to in our issue of the 25th instant, was due to the promotion of Gunner Bremner to Sergeant, who has only seen one season's service in the Field Battery, and because his promotion was not carried out strictly in accordance with the Regulations. Such is the substance of the allegations floating about in Hongkong Volunteer circles. Last night at Headquarters the following promotions were made by ballot:—Sergeant Coyle to Q.M.S., Corporal R. F. Lammert to Sergeant, Gunner Bremner to Sergeant, and Gunner W. Armstrong and E. W. Kennett to Corporals, and Gunner Percell to Acting Corporal. Great dissatisfaction still prevails in the camp. We are sorry to hear that the "hitch" referred to has unfortunately cost the Corps two "crack" shots, namely, Sergeant A. Brown and Corporal Soenderman, both of whom have tendered their resignations.

ACCORDING to an Imperial Edict of the 22nd instant, Chai Ching-hui, acting Taoist of Yangtze Intendency, has been promoted to be Provincial Judge of Chihli vice Chen Fu, placed on the retired list.

IT is reported from Ningpo that there is considerable sickness in the districts east of that port. Natives state that since the commencement of the summer over 900 children have died there of smallpox and some 1,500 adults from a fever epidemic.

PROBABLY the most extraordinarily rare and valuable book ever made is that which was recently presented to the Dowager-Empress of China, in commemoration of her sixtieth birthday, by the Christian women of China. The volume is most elegantly bound in solid silver boards, which were made in Canton. The ornamentation consists of birds and bamboo in relief, and the workmanship is superb and exquisite. The name of the book—"Complete New Testament"—is in large characters of solid gold. On the centre is a gold plate, on which is the inscription—"Classic of Salvation for the World." The back is old gold plate. The Chinese say that the bamboo is an emblem of peace and the birds are messengers; the design, then, conveys to the Dowager-Empress a "message of peace" from her Christian friends.

THE *Kobe Chronicle* of the 18th instant says:—"The information we published more than a week ago to the effect that half the transports at Port Arthur were flying the yellow flag is now confirmed by a telegram from Nagasaki in the *Tokyo Asahi*. According to this telegram, as many as 1,000 of the troops at Tollenau and Kichow have been attacked by epidemic disease. The patients who can be moved will shortly be brought to Nagasaki."

TO-DAY, says the Singapore *Free Press* of the 20th instant, the Singapore Chamber of Commerce almost unanimously adopted a resolution approving of the Government proposal to establish a Treasury note issue concurrently with the bank note issue now current in the Straits. The Chamber further almost unanimously expressed its approval of the proposal that such a Government Treasury note issue should include the issue of a dollar note. The security for these issues is a silver reserve held up to half the value of notes in circulation, and the investment in approved securities of a sum equal to half the issue to be held as an auxiliary guarantee. The note issue is proposed to be current in the Colony and the Native States, but as to the application of the issue to the latter area that will depend on negotiations to follow the final sanction of the note issue. The question as to whether the note-issuing Banks are to retain their privileges is not to be considered until after the Treasury and Bank issues have been in concurrent use sufficiently long to derive conclusions from the experimental working of the new issue in competition with that of the Banks.

THE EPIDEMIC OF PLAGUE.

THE RECOGNITION OF MR. FRANCIS' SERVICES.

A SILVER INKSTAND DECLINED.

The following correspondence, which speaks for itself, has been exchanged between his Excellency the Governor of Hongkong and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C.:

Government House, 22nd May, 1895.

Sir,—By the direction of the Marquis of Ripon I have great pleasure in forwarding to you the accompanying handsome silver inkstand.

You will find engraved upon it the following inscription:—"Presented by the Hongkong Government, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, to J. J. Francis, Esq., Q.C., Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board, in recognition of services rendered during the epidemic of bubonic plague at Hongkong in 1894."

For those services you have already been thanked by me, and also by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In again expressing my appreciation of the work which you then performed so willingly and so ably, it only remains for me now to ask you to accept this inkstand from the Government of Hongkong as a slight recognition of your disinterested and valuable labours during the epidemic of 1894.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, WILLIAM ROBINSON, Governor, &c., &c., &c.

J. J. Francis, Esq., Q.C., &c., &c., &c.

THE REPLY.

Bank Buildings, Hongkong, 27th May, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegraphic letter of the 22nd instant, in which you inform me that, by direction of the Marquis of Ripon, you have much pleasure in forwarding to me a handsome silver inkstand with an inscription

